

*Snyder*  
De Mouth House  
Newfoundland, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-217

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14-NEWFO  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
153 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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De Mouth House  
Newfoundland, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: City of Newark

Date of Erection: Earlier wing about 1740 with second story and connecting links of brick about 1820; later unit dated 1775

Architect:

Builder: A member of the De Mouth family for the older portion; later section Peter Snyder

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - older one story portion stone, second story to this part brick erected about 1820; later unit stone with frame gable

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

It has been impossible to make a complete search of this property. The City of Newark acquired title in 1914 from the estate of Theodore Brown. Brown purchased the property in 1868 from Louis Davenport who got it that same year from Charles Snow and Pelig Nelson. We know that these two purchased in 1866 from Julia Zipple who received title from Nathaniel Taylor two years before this. Taylor acquired the property from Henry

Ackerman in 1862.

Although we have not been able to get beyond this date in the search, we know from Crayon's book that the property in question was the old De Mouth House. Crayon has the following to say: "The mythical inscription 'P X S 1773' on the triangular stone above the door of the old stone house now owned by Theodore Brown, may be interpreted that the building was erected by Peter Snyder in 1773. It was an addition to the original stone house built just forty years previous upon the lands owned by a member of the De Mouth family, who located there from Rockaway Valley about 1730, and inherited by the wife of Peter Snyder, who was a daughter of this early settler at New Foundland." He also tells us that the De Mouth family were French Huguenots who came to America in 1709 and who were supposed to have been the first white settlers in Rockaway Valley.

The only proof we have of this being the De Mouth house is from Crayon's book; there is a tradition in the neighborhood to this effect, but this comes from the same source. Crayon calls the date "mythical" - of that there is no proof one way or the other. The old unit has an entirely new roof and all the windows in both parts except two have been rebuilt. Mr. Moody, the storekeeper at Newfoundland, who occupied the building at that time, gives the date of these alterations as 1922. The roof of the later unit (1820) is original and the doors and trim of the 1740-1820 section and of the first floor of the 1773 building are identical.

Bibliography:

Crayon, J. Percy Rockaway Records of Morris  
County, N. J., Families Rockaway, Rockaway  
Publishing Company, 1902

Search of Morris County records by Frank P.  
Caufield, Essex County Office

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Supervising Historian

Approved:

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